

Woolf, Virginia

363 A. L. S. (3 incomplete), 32 A. L., 13 T. L. S.,
34 miscellaneous pieces to Ethel Mary Smyth.
[v.p.] Jan. 30, 1930 - March 10 [1941]
88 folders.

52, Tavistock Square,

W.C.1.

Telephone : Museum 2621.

30 Jan 1930

Dear Miss Juyth,

If you only knew how often I have wanted
to write to you — & only didn't for fear of
boring you — to thank you for your books &
articles & to ask you about my Great grandfather
Pattle who shot up out of a barrel, as you say,
in the Indian Ocean — then you wouldn't
abandon me. There is nothing I should like better
than to see you — & you might like me. Who knows?

Thursdays my husband, whom you would like, is here — but
as you only come sometimes, please say which day suits
you & we will keep it.

NYPL

I am very glad you liked my little book. It was
rather a wild venture, but if you think
there is something in it, I am satisfied.

Yours sincerely & with as much
admiration as you will accept,

Virginia Woolf.

52, Tavistock Square,
W.C.1.

Telephone : Museum 2621.

Tuesday. 4th Feb 1930

Dear Dame Ethel Smyth (I'm afraid I mis-called you before)
alas, we are going down to the country early on
Friday. But if you would name any day next week,
I would keep it free. I'm sending you a book of
pictures by a great Aunt of mine, in which I quote
your opinion of my great grandfather. But this is
no return whatever for the immense pleasure I
have had from your books (I dare not say music, because
though writing, I am ignorant) Your truly
in which my husband ~~was~~ agrees with
me.

Virginia Woolf

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Monday, Feb 10

1930

My dear Dame Ethel Smyth.

If you know how many times I loved all Sunday & Sunday about not having a temperature in order not to put you off, & then was caught out, & then said very likely you wouldn't catch it. I was then forced to ring up & explain, you wouldn't accuse me of telling lies - anyhow to you - I was never so truthful in my life. It did seem rather monstrous to let you come here & get the influenza at your first

incorinli. But what about Friday 4.30¹ - I
expect to be all right then; a Monday^{NYPL} 4.30.
I'll keep both till then.

And I have a request. I went to get Impressionism that
German today, & found only vol 2. What I have read
from end to end lying in front of the fire with my dog.
But I can't leave you half in half. Could you LEND me
vol 1? It would be an angelic charity - if you don't
hate doing up parcels. What a fascinating book!
How did you learn to write like that?

Ever very warmly
Virginia Woolf.
My husband is up again but says he is stupider as an owl.

52, Tavistock Square,
W.C.1.

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13¹ Feb
1930

My dear Dame Ethel Smyth

But this generosity is absolutely in head of 2 wrong.
I said LEND & instantly two volumes are shot at my
feet. Well, if you wish with my name in them, I can't
ask more ^{or} merit. Of course I read them the year they came out,
with rapture, & bought the red Edition later, which
my sister Vanessa, who has only read 3 books in
her life, stole, leaving me only the 2nd Second Volume.
I think I could stand an examination in all your aunts, uncles,

horses & dogs. I am now re-reading, with the additional
delight of being the victor, though I fear by unfair means.
This one of my favourite works, & I have even gone so far as to try to
re-print. Yes, I think your mother adorable. So was mine.
I am glad to hear that you are happy! Then I

print. Yes, I think your mother adorable.
What a relief to my mind that you are Thabby! Then I
needn't mend the hole in my solitary dress, as I had
fully intended.

I am still in bed, & suppose should have had, in honesty,
to put you off tomorrow, owing to a temperature; so
Monday will be perfect.

Really want thank you enough for the books,
to which I am now going to return
to Graduate Virginia Woolf